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Title: Need to delegate power to Government of Gujarat to grant Indian citizenship to migrant Pakistani Hindus settled in Gujarat.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (AHMEDABAD EAST): A decision regarding granting of nationality/citizenship to the Pakistani Hindu minority community members migrated from Pakistan and settled in Rajasthan and Gujarat was taken by the then NDA Government in the year 2003-04 & by UPA Government in the year 2004-05. As per that decision, the State Governments of Rajasthan & Gujarat were empowered to scrutinize the applications and grant citizenship to the migrated Pakistani Hindu minority community members at the State level only. In this regard a notification giving power to the above mentioned States was published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-Section (i) in the year 2004. The notification was valid for one year. Due to this notification a large number of Pakistani Hindu minority community members settled in Rajasthan and Gujarat were granted Indian citizenship as per the rules by the respective State Government. As one year is a very short time to scrutinize the applications and grant citizenship, so on my request the notification was extended for another one year and a large number of Pakistani Hindu minority community members were benefitted at that time. Now it has come to my notice that despite the time period of two years, a large number of Pakistani Hindu minority community members settled in Gujarat were not able to acquire Indian citizenship due to lack of knowledge and now they are running from pillar to post with documents to get Indian citizenship. Further, Government of India had granted same powers to the State of Maharashtra for granting Indian citizenship to Pakistani Hindu minority community members settled in Maharashtra. I, therefore, request the Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs to again give powers to the State Government of Gujarat for one year to grant Indian citizenship to Pakistani Hindu minority community members so that the remaining persons can avail the benefit of getting Indian citizenship.